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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mikihide NAKAMARU et al.
Title: REACTOR CORE AND METHOD
FOR OPERATING NUCLEAR
REACTOR
Appl. No.: 09/978,308
Filing Date: 10/17/2001
Examiner: R. Palabrica
Art Unit: 3641

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated January 13, 2004, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this document.